

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application with claims 7, 9, 16, 24, 26, 33, and 37 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 20 and 24 are currently amended to correct typographical errors.

The application currently stands restricted to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group A, claims 1-36; and
Group B, claim 37.

Notably, the Examiner indicates in the Office Action that Group A includes claims 1-35 and Group B includes claim 36. However, based on the Examiner's description of Group A and Group B, it appears that the identification of claims 1-35 as Group A and claim 36 as Group B is a typographical error and the Office Action should have instead identified that Group A includes claims 1-36 and Group B includes claim 37.

In addition, the application currently stands restricted to one of the following species under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species I: Figures 4-6;
Species II: Figure 9;
Species III: Figure 10;
Species IV: Figures 11-12;
Species V: Figures 13-14; and
Species VI: Figures 15-16.

In response to these restrictions, the Applicant elects Group A, i.e., claims 1-36, and Species III, i.e., Figure 10, for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-15, 17-23, 25, 27-32, and 34-37 encompass Species III. Claim 37 is currently withdrawn as not being included in elected Group A. Claims 7, 9, 16, 24, 26, and 33 are currently withdrawn from consideration as not being directed toward elected Species III.

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-4, 10-14, 17-21, 27-31, and 34-36 are generic.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that, in addition, claim 37 is also generic to Species I-VI such that a complete listing of generic claims is as follows: 1-4, 10-14, 17-21, 27-31, and 34-37. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic independent claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claim.

Finally, the Examiner identifies which claims encompass each species. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the listing in the Office Action and asserts that the claims encompass the species as follows:

Species I: Figures 4-6, Claims 1-6, 10-14, 17-23, 27-31, and 34-37;

Species II: Figure 9, Claims 1-4, 7, 10-14, 17-21, 24, 27-31, and 34-37;

Species III: Figure 10, Claims 1-6, 8, 10-15, 17-23, 25, 27-32, and 34-37;

Species IV: Figures 11-12, Claims 1-6, 8, 10-15, 17-23, 25, 27-32, and 34-36;

Species V: Figures 13-14, Claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-23, 26-31, 33-36; and

Species VI: Figures 15-16, Claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-23, 26-31, 33-36.

A petition and fee for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith. Although no additional fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

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